El Toro Road revamp

BY RITA FREEMAN THE NEWS

Drivers along El Toro Road will see even more changes on the thoroughfare in the coming weeks.

Crews in Lake Forest are pouring new sidewalks on the north side of El Toro. City officials said the new westbound lane is expected to open in four weeks. Underground utility work on the south side of the street should start in two weeks.

Construction began last September. When the project is complete, El Toro Road will have a fourth lane in each direction, dedicated turn fanes and landscaped medians. It is the key in the city's redevelopment plan for the area.

In Laguna Hills, the City Council has approved the use of eminent domain for two parcels of land for its street widening. The city acquired 1,442 square feet of land at 24081 Paseo de Valencia, and 239 square feet at 24012 Avenida de la Carlota.

The land acquisition is part of the city's El Toro Road Urban Village project, which calls for widening the street and improving the area around the Laguna Hills Mall and the civic center.

Sources: Cities of Lake Forest and Laguna Hills

Reporting, Rita Freeman and Jim Radcliffe; graphic, Scott Brown / The News

50,000 Number of months until construction begins in Laguna Hills Number of cars that travel El Toro Road from Rockfield Boulevard to Bridger Road. Ridge Route Dr. LAGUNA WOODS Weeks until new westbound lane is open on north side of El Toro Mulrands Blud. Arbors: These more elaborately designed areas include overhead shade and New lane: colorful landscaping. Construction is under way to widen Rockfield Boulevard to create a dedicated. southbound right-Washington turn lane. Mutual Freeway entrance: Construction to create two South side: dedicated lanes to the Construction is freeway onramp begins on expected to begin the northbound entrance in two weeks. to the San Diego (1-5) Freeway at El Toro Road. Eminent domain: Laguna Hills City Council approves acquisition of two pieces of land at Paseo de Valencia and El Toro Road and Avenida de la Carlota at El Toro Lake Forest Road for its expansion project. Start: Sept. 14, 2004 End: Nov. 2005 Laguna Hills Cost: \$27 million civic center Gateway: Lake Forest City Council approves a design for an open-beam, craftsman-style tower in addition to landscaping as a gateway to the city. New lane added 읂 Valencia Laguna Hills Start: Jan. 2006 Note: Drawing is End: June 2006 a schematic and Cost: \$2.5 million not to scale

The Orange County Register

Friday, June 24, 2005

Saddleback Valley News